

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the March 31, 2006 Office Action issued in connection with the above-noted application. By this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 20 have been amended as indicated above. Claim 3 has been amended to depend from claim 1 rather than claim 2. Claims 9-14, 16-18, 21 and 25-31 have been amended, as requested by the Examiner to change "pocket" to "blanket pocket". Claim 20 has also been amended in a similar manner. New claims 34 to 45 have been added to the application to more particularly describe the applicant's invention. Claims 36 and 42 are independent. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner review and consider the foregoing amendments in view of the following remarks.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objects to claims 9-14, 16-18, 21 and 25-31, and requests that they be amended to insert the term --blanket-- before the term "pocket". These claims have now been amended as requested. A similar amendment has been made to claim 20.

Claim 3 has also been amended to depend from claim 1 rather than claim 2. The amendment to claim 3 corrects a typographic error.

The present application is directed to a blanket having a blanket pocket attached thereto, the blanket pocket being of a size to receive the blanket for storage and for conversion of the blanket into a stuffed toy or pillow. The blanket pocket is visually appealing in both shape and color and is positioned to be the focal point of the blanket. The blanket may be stowed inside the pocket by stuffing the blanket into the pocket without requiring intricate folding of the blanket. The blanket includes a hood attached thereto and a pocket for storing the hood. Fasteners are provided to secure the blanket around a user's shoulders. When folded inside the blanket pocket,

the convertible blanket may be used as a pillow, a cushion or a stuffed toy. When unfolded the blanket may be used as a sleeping bag, a blanket, or a cape with a hood and fasteners.

The applicant has amended claims 1 and 20 to recite the hood as being open at a face and including fabric to form a mask. The advantage of this arrangement is that the convertible blanket now provides additional opportunities for use, particularly by children who may find it amusing to use the blanket as a hooded cape costume to assume the persona of a character that might be depicted on the mask as recited in amended claims 1 and 20, and new claims 34 and 35. Support for the amendment to claims 1 and 20 and for new claims 34 and 35 is found in paragraph 31 of the application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to claims 1 and 20 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,774,734 to Mills in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,588,749 to Ishikawa and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,884,331 to Barajas. It is submitted that claims 1 and 20 as amended herein, and the claims that depend therefrom are patentable over the cited references.

In particular, none of the cited references describe or even suggest a convertible blanket having a hood that includes fabric to form a mask as now recited in amended claims 1 and 20 submitted herewith.

New claims 36 to 41 are provided to also describe a convertible blanket having a blanket pocket attached thereto, the blanket pocket being of a size to receive the blanket for storage and for conversion of the blanket into a stuffed toy. The blanket pocket is visually appealing in both shape and color and is easily stowed inside the pocket by stuffing the blanket into the pocket without requiring intricate folding of the blanket. The blanket includes a hood attached thereto for wearing over a user's head, the hood being open at a face and including fabric to form a mask. When folded inside the blanket pocket, the convertible blanket may be used as a pillow, a

cushion or a stuffed toy. When unfolded, the blanket may be used as a sleeping bag, a blanket, or a cape with a hood and mask.

As previously noted, none of the references cited by the Examiner describe or even suggest a convertible blanket having a hood that includes fabric to form a mask as now recited in new claims 36 to 41. Accordingly, these claims are believed to be patentable over the cited references as well.

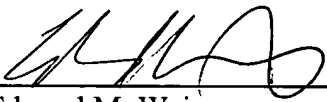
New claims 42 to 45 are provided to recite a convertible blanket having two blanket pockets, one on either side of the blanket. The first pocket is of a size for receiving the blanket for storage or conversion into a stuffed toy or a pillow and is visually appealing in shape and color. The blanket is easily stowed inside the first blanket pocket by stuffing the blanket into the first blanket pocket without intricate folding of the blanket. The second blanket pocket is attached to the other side of the blanket, and is located such that when the blanket is used as a sleeping bag it is disposed within the sleeping bag. This second blanket pocket may be used to store things inside the sleeping bag and in particular may be used to hold a hot water bottle to keep the user warm. Advantageously, the second blanket pocket may also be of a size for receiving the blanket and be visually appealing in shape and color. The shape of the second pocket may be different from the shape of the first pocket to thereby give the user a second shape option for conversion of the blanket into a stuffed toy or pillow. Further, the internal surfaces of the two pockets may be printed with different amusement objects to provide further options when converting the blanket into a stuffed toy or pillow.

Support for most of the subject matter described in new claims 42 and 45 is found in paragraph 48 of the application.

None of the references cited by the Examiner describe a blanket that is convertible into a sleeping bag and having two blanket pockets, one disposed on the outside for receiving the blanket for storage or conversion into a stuffed toy or pillow, and the other disposed on the inside when the convertible blanket is used as a sleeping bag. Accordingly, claims 42 to 45 are submitted to be patentable over the cited references as well.

If any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
COHEN, PONTANI, LIEBERMAN & PAVANE LLP

By 
Edward M. Weisz
Reg. No. 37,257
551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1210
New York, New York 10176
(212) 687-2770

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